

PATENT  
Docket No. 150.01180101IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Brian A. VAARTSTRA )  
Serial No.: 10/032,049 )  
Confirmation No.: 5131 )  
Filed: December 21, 2001 )  
Group Art Unit: 2814  
Examiner: Thao Le

For: METHODS FOR PLANARIZATION OF METAL-CONTAINING SURFACES USING  
HALOGENS AND HALIDE SALTS

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

FAX RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
BOX AF  
Washington D.C. 20231

FEB 11 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 11, 2002, please consider and enter the following remarks:

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 11, 2002 has been received and reviewed. The pending claims are claims 1-53. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-53 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,290,736 (Evans).

"To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness . . . there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings." M.P.E.P. §706.02(j). Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.